

## ***THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY***

**June 2011 – Week 2**

**Air Date: June 5 – June 11 (Sunday – Saturday)**



### **TITLE: A VOICE SILENCED**

JUNE 1952 AND AN ICON'S DEATH UNITES A COMMUNITY.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

JUNE 10, 1952. BROWNSVILLE. JOSE CANTÚ IS A LOCAL LEGEND. HOST OF THE HIT RADIO SHOW “PROGRAMA POPULAR”, CANTÚ BLENDS TEJANO MUSIC WITH HIS OWN POLITICAL COMMENTARY. AFTER SIX YEARS, HE’S THE VOICE OF AN ENTIRE COMMUNITY – BUT ALSO HAS ENEMIES.

AROUND MIDNIGHT, CANTÚ AND HIS FRIENDS LEAVE BOCA CHICA BEACH AND HEAD BACK TO BROWNSVILLE. NEAR TOWN, THE CAR LEAVES THE ROAD AND CRASHES INTO A TREE, KILLING CANTÚ INSTANTLY.

SOME SAY THE BRAKES WERE TAMPERED WITH, BUT CANTÚ PROBABLY FELL ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL.

TWO DAYS LATER, THOUSANDS TURN OUT AS CANTÚ IS LAID TO REST. IT’S THE LARGEST FUNERAL THE VALLEY HAS EVER SEEN.

JOSE CANTÚ DIED 59 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT [SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG](http://SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG) OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.

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Carlos M. Larralde, "CANTU, JOSE," *Handbook of Texas Online*

(<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fcadx>), accessed June 01, 2011. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

#### Contemporary News Sources

Brownsville Herald: (1952) June 11, 12

Valley Morning Star: (1952) June 11, 12 August 22

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